



CONNECTORS / LINKING WORDS

A. EXPRESSING CONTRAST

CONNECTORS	Followed by...	EXAMPLE	Rest of sentence
although / though / (even)though	+ clause + comma	Even though / Although / Though the origins of spinoffs are not easily recognizable,	it is difficult to find an aspect of everyday life into which they have not penetrated.
in spite of / despite	+ noun + comma	In spite of / Despite recent <u>advances</u> in A.I.,	human intelligence is still ahead of machine intelligence.
in spite of / despite	+ -ing form	In spite of / Despite <u>being</u> small and portable,	wearable devices are still noticeable.
in spite of / despite	+ the fact that + clause + comma	In spite of / Despite the fact that space travel is too dangerous and too costly,	I think it is worth the risks.
nevertheless / however	+ comma + clause	At the moment conventional computers still have problems. Nevertheless / However,	researchers have designed a new kind of computer that imitates the human brain.
whereas / while	+ clause	Whereas / While many scientists are betting on the ISS to impact both life in space and on Earth,	others question the enormous cost in the name of science.

I. Fill in the gaps with some of the above connectors.

1. In the future more computers will be used in classrooms. _____ , blackboard, books, pens and pencils will be around for quite a while.
2. _____ his usual shyness, John soon got used to his computer.
3. _____ Paul did a course on Internet use, he still feels his knowledge is limited.
4. The web is a very useful tool _____ it is time consuming.
5. _____ finding computers useful, some people still resent them as a possible cause of unemployment.

B. EXPRESSING CONDITION

CONNECTORS	Followed by...	EXAMPLE ⇔ Rest of sentence	
if	+ clause	It's a serious and dangerous mistake	if we keep on mixing life with technology.
if	+ clause + comma	If an e-mail comes from someone very important,	the computer will always put it through .
if	+ clause + comma	If medical specialists used TV monitors and specially adapted equipment,	they would be able to cure distant patients.
if	+ clause + comma	If he hadn't spent so long in front of the computer,	he would have had more time to know people.
as long as	+ clause + comma	As long as students have access to a computer and the internet,	they can take courses from anywhere in the world.

II. Complete the following conditional sentences by putting the correct tense of the verb in brackets.

1. If I had a computer, I _____ (not type) my homework.
2. If you attend computer lessons, you _____ (learn) how PCs work.
3. If you understand the instructions, you _____ (can) to get the computer working.
4. If your friend decided to buy a new mobile, _____ (you/ buy) a new one too?
5. Robots won't dominate the world as long as we _____ (control) them.
6. If politicians _____ (be) more helpful, e-learning would be a reality in our country.

C. EXPRESSING CAUSE AND REASON

CONNECTORS	Followed by...	EXAMPLE ⇔ Rest of sentence	
as	+ clause	The nature of the Internet changes	as people add more material, build faster computers, create improved software and develop more capable communications.
since	+ clause + comma	Since machines are being developed with more abilities and functions,	how can we control them?
because	+ clause	A computer differs from most other machines	because it is versatile.

D. EXPRESSING TIME

CONNECTORS	Followed by...	EXAMPLE	Rest of sentence
as	+ clause + comma	As students attend online classes,	they benefit from the flexibility of online learning.
since	+ clause + comma	Since telemedicine is used by some specialists,	healthcare has improved.
when	+ clause + comma	When the beams of sound or light sent out by the robot are broken,	the robot automatically stops.
while	+ clause + comma	While teenagers are using the net,	they run the risk of becoming addicted to it.

E. EXPRESSING PURPOSE

CONNECTORS	Followed by...	EXAMPLE
so that	+ clause	The next phase of this post-PC era will be to integrate computers and other devices directly into our clothing, so that they are virtually invisible.
in order to	+ infinitive	She bought a robot in order to <u>help</u> her with the housework.

F. EXPRESSING ADDITION

CONNECTORS	Followed by...	EXAMPLE
not only...but also...	not only + verb + but also + verb not only + noun + but also + noun	Robots can not only <u>perform</u> repetitive actions but also <u>do</u> dangerous jobs.
both...and...	both + noun + and + noun both + verb + and + verb	The smart shirt will monitor both heart and breathing <u>rates</u> .

G. EXPRESSING ALTERNATIVE

CONNECTORS	Followed by...	EXAMPLE
either...or...	same kind of words	Robots perform work or actions normally performed by humans, either automatically or by remote control.
neither...nor...	same kind of words	Robots can neither <u>think</u> nor <u>make</u> decisions.

III. Fill in the blanks with the missing connector from tables A, C, D, E, F.

1. More and more teenagers have become 'webaholics': they spend hours on end _____ surfing the net _____ downloading music and videos.
2. This compulsive habit deeply affects their lives _____ it alters their behaviour and isolates them from their family and friends.

3. We have to make teenagers aware of the good and evil of the internet _____ they may be able to use it properly and responsibly.
4. Kasparov can evaluate 2 or 3 chess positions per second _____ Deep Blue can process 200 million moves.
5. Alan Turing was a brilliant mathematician who helped to break the Enigma codes during WWII. _____, he was largely forgotten after his death.
6. The first real robots appeared half a century ago _____ transistors and integrated circuits were invented.
7. _____ qualify as a robot, a machine has to get information from its surroundings and do something physical.
8. Technological progress has revolutionized _____ the way we communicate _____ the way we work and play.
9. His mobile phone stopped ringing _____ he entered the lift.
10. _____ being illegal, hacking is very up-to-date.

IV. Link the two clauses together by using the following connectors.

IF	WHEREAS	SINCE	WHILE	ALTHOUGH	AS	SO THAT
WHEN	DESPITE	NEITHER...NOR	IN SPITE OF	BECAUSE		

1. We don't learn to use the internet and all its resources. We run the risk of short-changing ourselves.
2. E-mailing has advantages. David thinks people should telephone more.
3. Peter likes playing computer games very much. However, the internet is still difficult for him.
4. Mary is interested in science. Her brother is keen on computing.
5. John is a good netter. I'd like to ask him a few questions about the net.
6. All the group members are here. We can begin the research work on the internet.
7. We had finished our work. We went home.
8. My sister is taking a computer course. She can find a good job after leaving school.
9. We got in touch online. I couldn't meet him personally.
10. Modern computers occupy much less space. Early computers took up whole rooms.
11. Christopher used to talk to people on the phone. Now most of his contacts depend on e-mail.
12. Judy has a PC. She prefers to have contact with real people.
13. The light went out. I was sending you a fax.
14. John isn't an expert netter. He isn't a PC fan.



Could I do all the exercises by myself?
What were my problems? Sentence construction?
Verb tenses? Choice of connector?

Did you like doing this activity? YES ☐ NO ☐

Did you find it useful? YES ☐ NO ☐ Why (not)? _____

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